

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6-17, and 21-25 are pending in this application. Claims 4, 5, and 18-20 are canceled by the present response without prejudice and new claims 21-25 are presented herein. Claims 18-20 were withdrawn from consideration.

The specification is amended by the present response to correct the informality noted at page 14, line 25.

Claims 1, 2, and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. 2002/0060516 to Kawate et al. (herein "Kawate"). Claims 3-10 and 15-17 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the early indication of the allowable subject matter in claims 3-10 and 15-17.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Kawate, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

The claims are amended by the present response to recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action. More specifically, independent claim 1 is amended by the present response to incorporate the limitations of previously pending, and now canceled, dependent claim 4. Thus, amended claim 1 corresponds to previously pending dependent claim 4 rewritten in independent form, which subject matter was noted as allowable in the outstanding Office Action.

Further, claim 12 is amended by the present response to further recite "the carbon nanotubes being partly buried in the metal plating layer". That limitation now included in claim 12 is similar to the limitation previously recited in dependent claim 4, and again which

limitation was noted as allowable in the outstanding Office Action. Thus, amended independent claim 12, and the claims dependent therefrom, are also believed to be allowable.

The present response also sets forth new claims 21-25 for examination that also correspond to subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action.

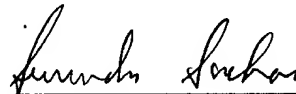
More specifically, new independent claim 21 corresponds to previously pending dependent claim 3 rewritten in independent form, new independent claim 22 corresponds to previously pending dependent claim 5 rewritten in independent form, and new independent claims 23-25 correspond to previously pending dependent claims 8-10, respectively, rewritten in independent form. Each of such subject matter was noted as allowable in the outstanding Office Action, and thus new claims 21-25 are also believed to recite allowable subject matter.

In such ways, each of the pending claims is believed to recite allowable subject matter.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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